

ADMINISTRATION

ACTION PLAN SUMMARY

GULF OF THE FARALLONES NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

PROGRAM STATEMENT

The sanctuary will need to strengthen its infrastructure by adding staff, upgrading facilities, and increasing financial resources to address priority site-specific and cross-cutting natural resource management issues identified through the management plan review process. In addition to basic infrastructure needs, administrative areas that will be addressed include: building partnerships; improving interagency coordination; and addressing regulatory and enforcement issues.

OUR GOAL

To build a comprehensive and coordinated administrative plan to provide support for the site in achieving the goals of the management plan, and increase protection for the resources and qualities of the sanctuary.



Photo: GFNMS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The sanctuary's administration provides an organized structure and support system for implementing management strategies while providing the flexibility and guidance necessary to address changing, new, and emerging resource management issues.

The objectives of the sanctuary's administrative program are to develop an administrative framework to continuously evaluate, maintain, and expand, as necessary, administrative operations; identify appropriate staffing, budget levels, and facility needs to support implementation of the management plan; and continue to build on partnerships, collaborative efforts, and coordination with other agencies, institutions and organizations.

THE JOINT MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW (JMPR)

Administration is one of the action plans in the GFNMS Draft Management Plan (DMP). The DMP includes nine action plans that, once finalized, will guide sanctuary management for the next five years. The plan is a revision of the original management plan, developed when the sanctuary was designated in 1981, and is focused on how best to understand and protect the sanctuary's resources. The National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) is updating the management plans for Cordell Bank, Gulf of the Farallones, and Monterey Bay national marine sanctuaries in what is known as the Joint Management Plan Review.



GULF OF THE FARALLONES NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Designated in 1981, Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary spans 1,279-square-miles (966 square nautical miles) just north and west of San Francisco Bay, and protects open ocean, near-shore tidal flats, rocky intertidal areas, wetlands, subtidal reefs, and coastal beaches within its boundaries.

Food-rich sanctuary waters teem with life: fish, invertebrates, seabirds and marine mammals thrive here. The sanctuary contains thirty-six marine mammal species, as well as twenty-six federally listed endangered or threatened species. White sharks and endangered blue and humpback whales migrate here seasonally to feed, and the Farallon Islands host the largest concentration of breeding seabirds in the contiguous United States.



ACTION PLAN

The sanctuary's Administration Action Plan was developed jointly with a variety of stakeholders and partners and includes, but is not limited to, the following components:

- New sanctuary facilities will be developed through various partnerships with both the public and private sector.
- Basic staffing requirements must provide support for administration and the program areas of conservation science, education/outreach, and resource management.
- Develop partnerships, and identify outside funding sources and in-kind services to assist in the implementation of the management plan.
- Work with the Sanctuary Advisory Council to assume a leading role in providing advice to the sanctuary superintendent.
- Ensure coordination and cooperation with federal, state and local jurisdictions within or adjacent to the sanctuary, GFNMS seeks to formalize intra- and interagency efforts.
- Develop and make use of performance indicators to measure effectiveness of the management of the sanctuary as a whole, as well as to evaluate specific strategies within the management plan.

TO GET INVOLVED

GFNMS welcomes your ideas about important resource management issues in the sanctuary. A Draft Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement are scheduled for release to the public in 2006. Following their release, hearings will be held in several locations throughout the region to gather public comment. Written comments will be accepted as well. To find out about public hearings, or how to submit written comments, please visit our website at <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/jointplan>.